

REPORT
OF
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the Senate respecting the construction of a building at Springfield, Illinois, for the accommodation of the United States courts and post office.

FEBRUARY 8, 1859.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing.

FEBRUARY 11, 1859.—Report in favor of printing the usual number submitted, considered, and agreed to.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *February 7, 1859.*

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of Senate resolution, passed February 2, 1859, directing me to inform the Senate what progress, if any, has been made in the construction of a building at Springfield, Illinois, for the accommodation of the United States courts and post office, under the act of August 18, 1856, and, if no progress has been made in the construction, the reasons therefor.

In reply I have to say, that the act referred to prescribed the size of the building and the materials of which it should be built. It was subsequently represented to the department that the prescribed size would be insufficient for the uses designed, and my predecessor, as I am informed, at the instance of a portion of the representatives in Congress from Illinois, directed plans to be prepared of a size requiring an additional appropriation, and purchased a site therefor.

My predecessor caused an advertisement to be made, inviting proposals for construction upon this enlarged plan, under which the bids were received and opened. But Congress not having made the additional appropriation, no award was made upon the bids, and the bidders were advised of the reason.

In this position I found the matter when I took charge of this department, and nothing has since been done with it beyond paying for the site. If no additional appropriation is to be made for the purpose, it will be necessary to prepare new plans of a smaller sized building, and readvertise the work before any steps can be taken for its construction.

As all new works of this character have to this time been postponed on account of the condition of the treasury, as stated in my various reports to Congress on the subject, no injury has resulted from the delay of Congress to act upon the subject.

Very respectfully,

HOWELL COBB,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. J. C. BRECKINRIDGE,
Vice President and President of the Senate.